

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS**  
**Chapter 71-A: MAINE VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT OF 1975**

**§4877. VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP REQUIRED; GOOD SAMARITAN EXCEPTION**

In order to practice veterinary medicine, a veterinarian must be engaged in a veterinarian-client-patient relationship. A veterinarian-client-patient relationship exists when a veterinarian: [ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

**1. Engaged by client.** Has been engaged by the client;

[ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

**2. Assumed responsibility.** Has assumed responsibility for making medical judgments regarding the health of the patient;

[ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

**3. Knowledge of patient.** Has sufficient knowledge of the patient to initiate a preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the patient and has personal knowledge of the keeping and care of the patient as a result of:

A. A timely examination of the patient by the veterinarian; or [ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

B. A medically appropriate and timely visit or visits by the veterinarian to the patient while that patient is under the care of the veterinarian's practice; [ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

[ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

**4. Follow-up evaluation.** Is readily available for follow-up evaluation or has arranged for veterinary emergency coverage and continuing care and treatment; and

[ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

**5. Records.** Maintains patient records.

[ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

A licensed veterinarian who in good faith engages in the practice of veterinary medicine by rendering or attempting to render emergency care to a patient when a client cannot be identified and a veterinarian-client-patient relationship is not established is not subject to any disciplinary sanctions authorized by Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A based solely upon the veterinarian's inability to establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship. [ 2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) . ]

**SECTION HISTORY**

2015, c. 209, §21 (NEW) .

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